

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! My name is Ms. Pizarro, and I am so excited to have your child in my class this coming school year. I have many exciting things planned for our class. Kindergarten is so much fun! Your child will learn new things, make new friends, play games, read books, and even become authors as we learn all about different writing genres. We will also be counting, learning numbers, adding, subtracting and much more.

The structure of daily activities is carefully planned to encourage independence, self-confidence, and group cooperation through large group work, small center groups, and one-to-one participation in a range of hands-on, project-based and interactive activities. Once Kindergarten starts, you will notice the focus of the curriculum is centered around themed units and reading selections of literature. This is the core of our integrated learning, and these units of study will be used to cover objectives across all content areas.

As they get ready for a new school year in September, these are some ways to get your child ready for Kindergarten:

1. Read to them everyday.
2. Work on fine motor skills with Play-Doh, Legos, and sand, as well as by cutting paper and tracing – these are very important practices to keep doing all summer long! – If you would like to inquire further on specific fine motor activities you can do with your child this summer, feel free to contact me.
3. Practice writing their name with the first letter capitalized.
4. Learn to follow two-step directions.
5. Practice social skills such as sharing, taking turns, asking for things they want, etc.
6. Get dressed on their own.

NOTE: this one is very important – accidents happen, and it is crucial your child can change on their own in the bathroom without supervision; please be mindful that our bathroom area is outside our classroom.

7. Help children take responsibility by cleaning up their messes, getting dressed, etc.
8. Build self-esteem by allowing children to struggle and overcome obstacles.
9. Involve your child in numerous hands-on activities: get messy, and play! Play is such an important part of your child's development – this includes: imaginative and pretend play, role-play, building with legos and blocks, arts and crafts activities, puzzle making and puzzle solving, etc. It is known that children who play often are much more likely to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.
10. Motivate and encourage your child to do things on their own. This includes: brush their own teeth, dress by themselves, put on their own jackets, clean up after themselves, etc
11. Use their words to communicate needs and wants

Reading for at least 15 minutes every day is an important way to continue developing your child's early literacy skills. The following reading list is a suggested list of books, but feel free to read any choice of book to your child. Please do not hesitate to read the same books over and over. Children love repetition and often start to recognize words, as well as recognize different details in the story every time they hear it.

- Corduroy Lost and Found by B.G. Hennesy
- Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina
- The Little Red Hen by Jerry Pinkney
- Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas
- The Mitten by Jan Brett
- Mrs. Wishy Washy's Farm by Joy Crowley
- The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds
- My Five Senses by Alike
- Jack the Builder by Stuart J. Murphy

Additionally, I would like to get to know a little more about your child and what I can do to help your child have a significant year in Kindergarten. Please answer the following questions and return this form to me as soon as possible to lpizarro@aosj.us
Your response is very important to me. Together we make a team!
I am looking forward to a great year.

Sincerely,
Ms. Pizarro

Child's Full Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Birthday: _____ / _____ / _____

Name and age of siblings (if any): _____

1. How would you describe your child's personality?

2. Does your child enjoy reading and/or being read to? (If yes, what kind of books?)

3. What are your child's strengths?

4. In what area(s) would you like to see your child improve?

5. What are you hoping for your child to learn this year?

6. How would you describe your child's learning style?

7. What motivates your child?

8. Is your child involved in any extracurricular activities? If so, please list.

9. How does your child overcome a challenge?

10. Is there anything else you would like to share with me about your child?
Please explain.
